AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 21, as follows:

Figures 9A and 9B. Characterization of a non-invasive variant of *Shigella flexneri* 2457T. (Fig. 9A) A non-invasive variant of *Shigella flexneri* 2457T was isolated by plasmid curing and isolation on Congo Red agar plates, as described (Maurelli et al, Infect. Immun. 43:397-401 (1984)). DNA was isolated from both the invasive and the non-invasive bacteria, and analyzed by PCR, as described (Picking et al, Protein Expr. Purif. 8:401-408 (1996)). The IpaC gene was amplified to test for the presence of the virulence plasmid, the Fis gene was amplified to control for the presence of genomic DNA. Primers for IpaC (5'primer: AGAAGCTTTGCAACAAACTACTGCTTGA (SEQ ID NO:1); 3' primer: GCGCTCTAGAGGAAGAGCCATATAT (SEQ ID NO:2)) and Fis (5' primer: ATGTTCGAACAACGCGTAAATTCT (SEQ ID NO:3); 3' primer: ATGCCGTATTTTTTCAATTTTTTAC (SEQ ID NO:4)) were designed based on their published sequences (Picking et al, Protein Expr. Purif. 8:401-408 (1996); Wei et al, Infec. Immun. 71:2775-2786 (2003)). The expected sizes of the IpaC and Fis PCR products are noted on the right. (Fig. 9B) The invasive and non-invasive variants of *Shigella flexneri* 2457T were analyzed for the ability to invade Hela cells using the gentamicin protection assay, as described (Menard et al, Meth. Enzymol. 236:493-509 (1994)). Results represent three independent experiments, each performed in triplicate.

Before the figures, insert the Sequence Listing submitted herewith.